community students has been completely exhausted? May I also know how many backward community students succeeded in getting seats from the general quota?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The backward classes got 143 seats out of a total of 300 seats. That is nearly 50 per cent. They are entitled to only 25 per cent of the reserved seats. They got the rest on merit.

Lower Bhavani Project Ryots' Conference at Pundurai

* 307 *Q.*—SRI K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri K. R. Nallasivam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the action taken so far with regard to the resolutions passed and presented to the Government at a conference of Lower Bhavani Project ryots at Pundurai on 24th September 1955?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : In addition to the resolutions passed at the last year's conference, other representations and memoranda have been submitted to the Government. The Government are considering them. I may state here that already certain concessions with regard to the cultivation of groundnut, gingelly, tobacco, chillies, turmeric, castor, tapioca, etc., have been given. With regard to "scattered fruit trees" and the raising of summer paddy crop also concessions have already been given.

SRI K. T. RAJU : சென்ற மாதம் 29-ம் தேதி, இந்த சட்டசபையில் இது சம்பந்தமாக கேள்விகள் கேட்டபோது கூடிய சீக்கிரம் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் பதில் அளிக்கிறோம் என்றும், இவைகளைப்பற்றி தீவிரமாக யோசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம் என்றும் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில் சொன்னார். இம்மாதிரி வரிப் பிரச்னையும் மற்ற பலவிதமான பிரச்னைகளும் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளுக்கெல்லாம் பதில் சொல்வதற்கு எவ்வளவு மாதங்களாகும் என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கருதுகிறார்கள் என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொன்னது எல்லாம் சரிதான். கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் அவைகளைப்பற்றி ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வரலாம் என்று இப்பொழுதும் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

Payment of arrears to the teachers of Harijan Welfare schools in Malabar

* 308 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the increments due to the teachers of Harijan Welfare schools in Malabar from 1948–1956 are still in arrears; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken so far to clear them?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir. The pay of the teachers in Malabar district was refixed with reference to the general revision of pay ordered in 1947 and the increased rates of pay were paid to the teachers with effect from 1st January 1955. The arrears of increment from 1st January 1948

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to 31st December 1954 could not, however, be disbursed as the arrear bills of 148 teachers had to be prepared and pre-audited by the Accountant-General, Madras. The bills have since been audited and the amounts disbursed except in the case of 17 bills which are still under correspondence between the Collector of Malabar and the Accountant-General.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know the reasons why these 17 bills of the Harijan Welfare school teachers were withheld and whether the Collector has been asked by the Government to see that the payment is expedited?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There was some difficulty in the presentation of the bills. Some errors crept into the bills. Therefore, about 12 bills were once again sent back to the Collector for re-submission. With regard to the other five bills, the pay was refixed and the exact amount was not correctly calculated. All these things are now being rectified. In the course of a month or two, I am quite sure that the Treasury Officer deputed to go into these bills will scrutinize them and will send a clean sheet to the Government.

Reprieve and remission for prisoners on the formation of Kerala and Madras States

* 309 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation in July 1956 from the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kuthuparamba, requesting the Government to consider reprieve and remission in the case of prisoners in the Madras State jails on the occasion of the formation of the Kerala and the Madras States?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The answer is in the affirmative. The Government do not consider it necessary to grant a general amnesty in celebration of the reorganization of States.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Apart from the question of a general or universal amnesty, may I know whether marks could be assigned to these prisoners by treating those who have undergone four years' imprisonment as equivalent to five years' imprisonment and so on. Such a thing is done when there is general jubilation all over the country. May I know whether there is any such proposal under contemplation?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir.

Plague establishment

* 310 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to disband the plague establishment working under the Director of Public Health?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir.